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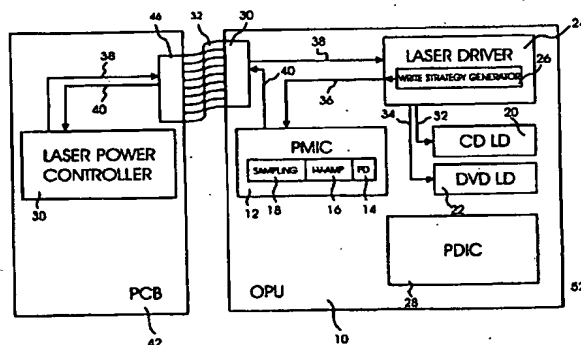
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(54) Title: INTEGRATED PHOTO MONITOR CIRCUIT AND OPTICAL PICKUP UNIT



**(57) Abstract:** The invention provides an integrated photo monitor circuit (12), particularly an integrated photo monitor circuit (12) for CD and DVD applications, comprising a photo detector (14), an amplifier (16) for amplifying an output signal of said photo detector (14), and sampling circuitry (18) for sampling an output signal of said amplifier (16). The invention further provides an optical pickup unit (10), particularly an optical pickup unit (10) for CD and DVD applications, comprising means (20, 22) for emitting light, and means (12) for generating a sampled feedback signal (40) correlated to the output power of said means (20, 22) for emitting light and intended to be evaluated for controlling said output power of said means (20, 22) for emitting light. By providing the sampling function on the optical pickup unit (10), especially in an integrated photo monitoring circuit (12), the necessary bandwidth of a flex connection (32) between the optical pickup unit (10) and a printed circuit board (42) may be reduced compared to solutions where the sampling is done on the printed circuit board (42).

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